

FINDS WHOLESALERS
HOLD ARMY PRUNESCommissioner Day Discovers
125 Cases in One East
Side Store.

SOME SOLD AT 11 C. PROFIT

Dealers Sent Relatives and
Employees to Buy Cases
One at a Time.

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan C. Day, Commissioner of Public Markets, made the discovery yesterday that many cases of army prunes, now being sold by the city for the Federal Government in public school buildings, are falling into the hands of wholesale and retail dealers in foodstuffs on the East Side, and "profiteers" at that. During the course of a comparatively brief investigation he rounded up 125 fifty pound cases of prunes in the shops of four wholesalers and from five to fifteen cases in the stores of a dozen or more retailers.

The prunes were purchased from the city at 15 cents a pound and were resold at from 26 to 29 cents a pound, which Dr. Day characterized as "the rankiest kind of profiteering." The Commissioner said he ordered the dealers to return the prunes at once to the United States District Attorney for prosecution on charges of hoarding and profiteering.

Dealers Were Warned.

Ben A. Matthews, Assistant United States District Attorney, said last night no report of the straying of surplus army prunes from the straight from the city to the consumers' route had been received by him.

Dr. Day repeatedly has warned wholesale and retail dealers, restaurant keepers and boarding house mistresses who might hanker for prunes in more than one case lots that the prunes were intended for householders and not to attempt to buy any. They were for consumers, and consumers only, and he hoped the poor of the city would manage to buy all the prunes which the city has been able to get from the army.

It was an anonymous letter which started Dr. Day on the trail of the prunes. The letter contained 492 names and addresses. Accompanied by George Schaefer, general inspector of the department, the Commissioner says, he visited the store of I. Dineen, 492 Grand street, where he found 100 cases. A total of 125 cases was located at M. Palestine's, 7 Attorney street; 100 cases at Goldberg & Cohen's, 205 East Fourth street, and 100 cases at Hirsch & Leventhal's, 242 Broome street. Dr. Day declares. All are wholesalers.

The dealers pretended to be terribly hurt at first over the idea that the Commissioner would suspect them of trying to make money on Uncle Sam's prunes, but the cases all bore the army marks and the proof was indisputable that these particular cases had passed through Public Schools 161 and 105. Then there was a general "feeling up" and the Commissioner warned them that if they didn't take the prunes back to the schools he would ask the Federal authorities to prosecute them.

Palestine explained that he bought his lot of prunes from Dineen. He said, he had been promised 200 cases more.

Sold at 29 Cents a Pound.

One case which had passed through the hands of Goldberg & Cohen Dr. Day says was traced to a retail store at 35 East Seventh street, where the prunes brought 29 cents a pound. Other lots were sold at 27 cents a pound by the same concern to retailers at 187 East Seventh street and at 225 East Tenth street.

The wholesalers, according to Dr. Day, denied they had done anything wrong and took the stand they were doing the city a favor by taking the prunes off its hands. They considered the transaction nothing worse than just "good business."

The selling staffs in the school stores long have been advised to be on the alert to prevent cases of prunes to fall in the hands of food dealers. The merchants were able to fool the sales by sending members of their families and store employees to a school one by one. Each bought a single case. Then the same set of buyers would purchase a case each at another school, and by being reasonably industrious the day's total purchases naturally were on a wholesale scale.

By paying the city 18 cents a pound for prunes and reselling at 29 cents, the dealers were able to make a profit of 11 cents a case. This was a profit of about 40 per cent.

Dr. Mary E. Pennington, chief of the United States research laboratory at Philadelphia, urged yesterday at the convention of the American Association of Dairy, Food and Drug Officials in the Hotel Commodore that laws be enacted to punish those who put bad eggs on the market. The present high price of eggs is due in a measure to the fact that warehouses are too full of eggs, she said.

Dr. E. F. Ladd, Food Commissioner of North Dakota, declared it the duty of all hands to eliminate "the greatest of all evils confronting society," the sale of patent medicines and nostrums. Dr. Ladd denounced farmers who sell butter and milk per cent of water in it and keep milk and cream under unsanitary conditions.

Roy D. Potts, marketing specialist for the United States Department of Agriculture, said the distribution of milk through retail stores might help to reduce the cost of living. European countries are seeking markets for their dairy products in this country, he said, and it will depend upon the members of the association whether they are permitted to exploit their products here.

SCORES PYRAMIDING
OF SUGAR PRICESWilliams Cites Sale at 13
Cents Here.

"This case illustrates the abuses of a commodity passing through several hands," Arthur Williams, Federal Food Administrator for this city, said yesterday in making public the results of an investigation of a complaint alleging an overcharge for sugar. "This pyramiding of prices should be stopped. No New Yorker profiteered in this case, although a high price was charged."

A. H. Bullard, 217 Fulton street, complained that the Shapiro Candy Manufacturing Company, 393 Madison street, Manhattan, now of 11 and 13 Emerson place, Brooklyn, charged him 12 cents a pound for 1,100 pounds of sugar.

Mr. Shapiro said the sugar was a part of 250 pounds which he bought of J. C. Brown, a sugar broker, 15 Park Row, at 13 cents a pound.

J. C. Brown said he bought the sugar from Egan & Son, 246 North Duane

ware avenue, Philadelphia, at 12 cents

a pound.

"Brown and Shapiro have agreed to refund all excess charges."

The Philadelphia concern told me over the telephone that the sugar had been bought for export. A member of the firm will be here to-morrow."

Only three complaints were lodged with Mr. Williams yesterday. Two outlined difficulties in getting sugar from retail dealers and the third was in regard to high prices.

Mr. Williams' investigators are trying to locate a Baltimore concern which, according to rumor, persistently is offering to sell two carloads of sugar in this city at 13 cents a pound.

PRICE OF CLOTHING
TO TAKE A TUMBLEPrediction Is Made at Convention
of Retailers.

CHICAGO, Sept. 9.—Delegates to the convention of the National Association of Retail Clothiers here today predicted a reduction in the price of clothing in the near future.

"It's got to come," said Fred Levy of Louisville, "and prices are on the way and we fellows will sing the loudest when the change comes. Men can't be induced to part with \$75 or \$80 for a business suit. The principle reason for the present high price is the cost of labor."

"There really is not much profiteering in clothing and what little there is we intend to stop."

The opening session to-day was attended by 600 merchants from every State in the Union. The convention offered its assistance to Attorney-General A. Mitchell Palmer and the Senate investigating committee in their fight against the high cost of living.

5 KILLED IN STRIKE
BATTLE IN HAMMOND

Continued from First Page.

were led by Lieut. Thomas Skuba, a Pole who recently was discharged from the United States Army. He wore his uniform and carried an American flag which he waved during the fight. He later was arrested.

MINERS WILL FIGHT
FOR WAGE DEMANDSWar Ended, They Will Press
Long Delayed Claims.

CLEVELAND, Sept. 9.—Demand for wage increases and shorter hours, strong insistence that these claims which had been deferred during the war could no longer be delayed, but must be forced through to a successful issue, dominated the deliberations of the opening session of the convention of the United Mine Workers of America here to-day.

Over two thousand delegates, constituting the largest miners' convention in the history of the organization, applauded the declarations of the acting president, John L. Lewis, that with the war practically over the miners could no longer be bound by wage agreements concluded for the period of hostilities but must press demands which would have been pressed to a decision long since had it not been for reluctance to embarrass the Government during the war. His declaration that no interference could be tolerated from any agency seeking to prevent the accomplishment of the miners' program was received with the same enthusiasm, as was his expression of fullest confidence that the miners' efforts would be successful even in the face of strong opposition and anticipated public criticism from various quarters.

Second only to wage demands in evoking applause were references to the high cost of living, a burst of general hand-clapping greeting the first use of this phrase in the president's report. Hoarse enthusiasm, too, was evoked by uncompromising denunciations by various speakers of the principle of compulsory arbitration.

The question of the nationalization of coal mines on the other hand evidently was of less burning interest to the delegates.

No dissent was heard when Mr. Lewis denounced the I. W. W., the "one big union," and similar movements as based upon "fantastical ideas of misguided enthusiasts and mercenary enemies of the trade union movement" and "day dreams of visionaries." If sympathizers with these movements were present they remained silent.

The delegates have adopted a six hour working day, which is anticipated will end the deliberations in about a fortnight.

Whether living costs are quickly brought back to normal or not, delegates to the convention indicated they are determined not to accept any compromise on the brotherhood's wage demands. Walter D. Hines, Federal Director of Railroads, who was to reach Detroit late to-night and address the convention to-morrow, is expected to state the rail administration's stand on the wage question, and strike action

by the organization may depend on what he will have to say.

The matter will be fought out on the convention floor Friday.

26,000 ON STRIKE IN
ANTHRACITE MINESUnion Official Says Men Violate
Agreements.

SCRANTON, Pa., Sept. 9.—Fourteen thousand employees of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Coal Company in its mines within Lackawanna county to-day obeyed the order of their grievance committee to strike in support of the company's miners at Archbald, who are protesting against the discharge of those who refused to do emergency work at laborers' wages. The men have other grievances.

Members of the anthracite conciliation board have issued a statement to the effect that the board will consider grievances of the men on strike immediately upon their return to work and render a quick decision.

District President Dempsey of the United Mine Workers has decided to remain in Scranton until the strike is admitted instead of returning to Cleveland, where the mine workers union is in session. He said the strikers are unwarranted and in violation of agreements.

With 26,000 miners idle there already is a big decrease in anthracite production.

BAY STATE STRIKE HELD UP.

Car Men Will Wait Until Friday
Before Acting.

BOSTON, Sept. 9.—The threatened strike of men of the Eastern Massachusetts Street Railway Company will not take place before Friday morning, union officials announced to-day.

William H. Murphy, chairman of the conference board of the car men's union, said that the board would meet to-morrow morning and if the public trustees had not accepted by that time any of the several proposals for re-arbitration of the award of the National War Labor Board, the strike authorized by vote of the union would be declared, but that the date would be such as to allow forty-eight hours' notice to the public and to the trustees.

The trustees to-day held to their position that the award of the War Labor Board was final, and that they would not be a party to repudiating it.

FUND FOR TANNERS
NOW TOTALS \$2,436Contributions of \$1,324.25
Accompanied by Striking
Testimonials.

ANONYMOUS GIFT OF \$500

Former Associates of Heroic
Husband Among Those Who
Send Remittances.

The fund that readers of THE SUN are raising for the three small children of William and Mary Tanner, the heroic pair who suffered death beneath the wheels of a train while clasped in each other's arms, more than doubled itself yesterday. Starting with an anonymous check for \$500 and closing with a number of dollar bills yesterday's receipts amounted to \$1,324.25, making the total received since last Saturday \$2,436.25.

Contributions to this humane fund will be received until the end of this week. The story of William and Mary Tanner is pretty well universally known by this time, so tremendous has been its appeal.

Mary Tanner, the young mother, was a prisoner on the tracks. Her foot was wedged down between the rail and the planking of a grade crossing in Hubbard Woods, Ill. William, her husband, made frantic efforts to release her. He could not drag her away. A heavy express train rounded the curve a hundred yards beyond. It was under full steam and making high speed.

There was no time to argue or debate. Mary Tanner bravely begged her husband to leave her "for the sake of the children and his mother."

"I will not leave you, Mary," the man said.

And he didn't leave her. He threw his arms around her and so stood that the train struck him first.

The three children—Helen, 6, and William and Lyman, 4—are being taken care of by their aunt, Mrs. Frances Tanner Cassidy, 11 Cortland place, Albany, N. Y.

Heritage for Children.

Accompanying yesterday's numerous contributions to the support of these three youngsters came letters that indicated how deeply the story of William and Mary Tanner has sunk into the hearts and minds of the people generally.

"I will not leave you, Mary!" is a beautiful promise," writes Frank W. Hackett of Washington, D. C. "Every American father and mother feels that the world is better for such an example of devotion. Those children have a heritage that is beyond price. I hope a poet may consecrate this act by lines worthy of the glorious character of the sacrifice."

William W. J. Warren, 129 Lafayette street, likens the sacrifice that William Tanner made and that Mrs. Tanner would have made to the sacrifice that Mrs. Leador Straus made when she chose to die with her husband on the Titanic rather than take to the lifeboats when he could not accompany her.

"We poor mortals do not often get the opportunity to contribute to such a rare and noble cause as this one," writes Charles J. Ronfield. "One can clearly understand what flashed through the mind of William Tanner when his wife cried to save himself. Let us hope that the future will be very kind to the children of William and Mary Tanner."

One of the striking contributions was that which accrued from a card game. The players sent aside a "kitty" for the children.

From the employees of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Pier 22, North River, where William Tanner was once employed and where he was known as "Bill," came \$55.25. Tanner was, at the time of his death, cashier in the B. & O. freight office in Chicago.

A Novelist's Vindication.

Gene Stratton Porter, the novelist, sent \$50 from her home, Lincolnton, Cabin, Rome City, Ind. She wrote that she has been accused of making her men heroes "too good to be true." She points to the sacrifice of William Tanner as vindication of her contention that constantly men and women portray just such heroism as she seeks to incorporate in her books.

Contributions to the fund received yesterday were:

Anonymous \$500.00

George Bird \$100.00

Mr. and Mrs. James Speyer 100.00

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